

OK TO ENTER: /EL/

JAN 23 2008

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60,469-403 PUS1  
PA-000.04416-US-A**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Richard J. Ericson  
Serial Number: 10/684,171  
Filed: 10/10/2003  
Group Art Unit: 3654  
Examiner: Langdon, Evan H.  
Title: TRACTION ENHANCED CONTROLLED PRESSURE  
FLEXIBLE FLAT TERMINATION DEVICE

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on November 23, 2007.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

**The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102  
based on the *Nichols* reference  
must be withdrawn**

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 22, 23 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the *Nichols* reference. There is no *prima facie* case of anticipation. First, the *Nichols* reference is not directed to an elevator arrangement nor one that would be considered compatible with an elevator arrangement. One skilled in the art clearly recognizes a difference between an elevator system and suspending a load in an elevator system on the one hand and a climbing rope having a rope grabber device as disclosed in the *Nichols* reference, on the other hand.